

water storage that moves California ahead and supplies farms, cities, and environmental needs.

We have this opportunity in a project that has long awaited our authorization, the Sites Reservoir in the western part of Colusa and Glenn Counties, a district that I used to represent in the State legislature and which my colleague, JOHN GARAMENDI, now represents in Congress.

We will soon be introducing a piece of legislation to move forward on the Sites Reservoir with an authorization for the funds needed to complete the studies and get started.

Some may say: Well, it will take 7 or 10 years to get this done.

Had we started 7 or 10 years ago, we would be right near completion; so we need to start today, and the people will thank us 7 or 10 years from now when we get this done. This will be introduced, hopefully, soon.

□ 0915

### MILITARY TRANSITION SUPPORT PROJECT

(Mr. PETERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the Military Transition Support Project, an innovative program to ease the transition for recently discharged veterans as they return to civilian life, which I helped launch last month.

Each year, over 15,000 servicemembers are discharged in San Diego, and around half will choose to stay there. Over the past year, we have worked with our local veteran leadership, our Navy and Marine commanders, and the San Diego philanthropic community to create a central system to help servicemembers navigate through their transition process.

This unique effort will improve the quality of life for servicemembers across San Diego. The program will begin in the last year of service and will give these dedicated men and women access to resources and continuous support throughout the transition process, beginning while they are still in uniform, by providing a central portal for benefits, employment, and housing.

This program has the potential to serve as a model for military communities around the country. It represents a groundbreaking, collaborative effort where the military, nonprofits, and private sector stakeholders can come together in the cooperative spirit that is a hallmark of San Diego to get our veterans to work.

### SGR REPEAL AND MEDICARE PROVIDER PAYMENT MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2014

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 515, I call up the bill (H.R. 4015) to amend title XVIII of the

Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and improve Medicare payments for physicians and other professionals, and for other purposes to amend section 530D of title 28, United States Code, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 515, the amendment printed in part B of House Report 113-379 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 4015

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Repealing the sustainable growth rate (SGR) and improving Medicare payment for physicians’ services.

Sec. 3. Priorities and funding for measure development.

Sec. 4. Encouraging care management for individuals with chronic care needs.

Sec. 5. Ensuring accurate valuation of services under the physician fee schedule.

Sec. 6. Promoting evidence-based care.

Sec. 7. Empowering beneficiary choices through access to information on physicians’ services.

Sec. 8. Expanding availability of Medicare data.

Sec. 9. Reducing administrative burden and other provisions.

#### SEC. 2. REPEALING THE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH RATE (SGR) AND IMPROVING MEDICARE PAYMENT FOR PHYSICIANS’ SERVICES.

(a) STABILIZING FEE UPDATES.—

(1) REPEAL OF SGR PAYMENT METHODOLOGY.—Section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4) is amended—

(A) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “or a subsequent paragraph” after “paragraph (4)”; and

(ii) in paragraph (4)—

(I) in the heading, by inserting “AND ENDING WITH 2013” after “YEARS BEGINNING WITH 2001”; and

(II) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “and ending with 2013” after “a year beginning with 2001”; and

(B) in subsection (f)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “through 2013” after “of each succeeding year”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “and ending with 2013” after “beginning with 2000”.

(2) UPDATE OF RATES FOR APRIL THROUGH DECEMBER OF 2014, 2015, AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS.—Subsection (d) of section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4) is amended by striking paragraph (15) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

“(15) UPDATE FOR 2014 THROUGH 2018.—The update to the single conversion factor established in paragraph (1)(C) for 2014 and each subsequent year through 2018 shall be 0.5 percent.

“(16) UPDATE FOR 2019 THROUGH 2023.—The update to the single conversion factor established in paragraph (1)(C) for 2019 and each subsequent year through 2023 shall be zero percent.

“(17) UPDATE FOR 2024 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS.—The update to the single conversion factor established in paragraph (1)(C) for 2024 and each subsequent year shall be—

“(A) for items and services furnished by a qualifying APM participant (as defined in section 1833(z)(2)) for such year, 1.0 percent; and

“(B) for other items and services, 0.5 percent.”.

(3) MEDPAC REPORTS.—

(A) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than July 1, 2016, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission shall submit to Congress a report on the relationship between—

(i) physician and other health professional utilization and expenditures (and the rate of increase of such utilization and expenditures) of items and services for which payment is made under section 1848 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4); and

(ii) total utilization and expenditures (and the rate of increase of such utilization and expenditures) under parts A, B, and D of title XVIII of such Act.

Such report shall include a methodology to describe such relationship and the impact of changes in such physician and other health professional practice and service ordering patterns on total utilization and expenditures under parts A, B, and D of such title.

(B) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than July 1, 2020, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission shall submit to Congress a report on the relationship described in subparagraph (A), including the results determined from applying the methodology included in the report submitted under such subparagraph.

(C) REPORT ON UPDATE TO PHYSICIANS’ SERVICES UNDER MEDICARE.—Not later than July 1, 2018, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission shall submit to Congress a report on—

(i) the payment update for professional services applied under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act for the period of years 2014 through 2018;

(ii) the effect of such update on the efficiency, economy, and quality of care provided under such program;

(iii) the effect of such update on ensuring a sufficient number of providers to maintain access to care by Medicare beneficiaries; and

(iv) recommendations for any future payment updates for professional services under such program to ensure adequate access to care is maintained for Medicare beneficiaries.

(b) CONSOLIDATION OF CERTAIN CURRENT LAW PERFORMANCE PROGRAMS WITH NEW MERIT-BASED INCENTIVE PAYMENT SYSTEM.—

(1) EHR MEANINGFUL USE INCENTIVE PROGRAM.—

(A) SUNSETTING SEPARATE MEANINGFUL USE PAYMENT ADJUSTMENTS.—Section 1848(a)(7)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(a)(7)(A)) is amended—

(i) in clause (i), by striking “or any subsequent payment year” and inserting “or 2017”; and

(ii) in clause (ii)—

(I) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “Subject to clause (iii), for” and inserting “For”; and

(II) in subclause (I), by adding at the end “and”; and

(III) in subclause (II), by striking “; and”

and inserting a period; and

(IV) by striking subclause (III); and

(iii) by striking clause (iii).

(B) CONTINUATION OF MEANINGFUL USE DETERMINATIONS FOR MIPS.—Section 1848(o)(2) of